

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An embeddable lintel block adapted to be mounted above an opening in block wall formed with a plurality of construction blocks, said lintel block comprising:

a rectangular base member having first and second a-first longitudinal sides extending between first and second ends of said base member and a second longitudinal side, said base member having a length longer than a maximum length of one of the blocks of the block wall, at least one of said first and second ends having an opening formed therein;

a first rectangular side member coupled to said first longitudinal side of said rectangular base member and extending along said length of said base member;

a second rectangular side member spaced from said first rectangular side member and coupled to said second longitudinal side of said rectangular base member, said second rectangular side member extending along said length of said base member such that said rectangular base member and said first and second rectangular side members form a substantially U-shaped cross-section; and

a plurality of spacer members coupled between said first and second rectangular side members, *adapted to be*

said lintel block having a maximum height about as tall as a height of one of the blocks of the block wall, and

said first and second rectangular side members being spaced apart from each other such that a maximum depth of said lintel block is defined by outer surfaces of said first and second rectangular side members.

2. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said spacer members are configured to form a substantially straight longitudinal passageway arranged between said first and second longitudinal side members.

3. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 2, further comprising

a reinforcing bar coupled to said lintel block, said reinforcing bar being arranged within said longitudinal passageway.

4. (Currently Amended) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein

~~said first and second rectangular side members have first and second free ends that terminate within first and second planes containing said outer surfaces of said first and second rectangular side members are fixedly coupled to said first and second longitudinal sides, respectively to form a substantially U-shaped cross-section.~~

5. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said rectangular base member and said first and second rectangular side members are integrally formed together as a one-piece unitary member.

6. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein each of said spacers includes a first mounting flange fixedly coupled to said first longitudinal side member and a second mounting flange fixedly coupled to said second longitudinal side member.

7. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said lintel block is constructed of metal.

8. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said spacer members are fixedly coupled to said first and second rectangular side members by welding.

9. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said lintel block has at least four of said spacer members.

10. (Original) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said rectangular base member has a first opening arranged at a first end of said lintel block and a second opening arranged at a second end of said lintel block.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a lintel in a block wall, comprising the steps of:

constructing said block wall with an opening using a plurality of construction blocks coupled together by a cementing slurry;

installing and securing a modular lintel block into said block wall above said opening with said cementing slurry, said modular lintel block having a maximum height about as tall as a height of one of said blocks of said block wall and a maximum depth width substantially equal to a corresponding depth height and width of said block wall construction blocks, and a length larger than a corresponding length of one of said construction blocks, said modular lintel block comprising

a rectangular base member having first and second a first longitudinal sides extending between first and second ends of said base member and a second longitudinal side, said base member having a length longer than a maximum length of one of said blocks of said block wall, at least one of said first and second ends having an opening formed therein;

a first rectangular side member coupled to said first longitudinal side of said rectangular base member and extending along said length of said base member;

a second rectangular side member spaced from said first rectangular side member and coupled to said second longitudinal side of said rectangular base member, said second rectangular side member extending along said length of said base member such that said rectangular base member and said first and second rectangular side members form a substantially U-shaped cross-section, [[;]] and

a plurality of spacer members coupled between said first and second rectangular side members,

said first and second rectangular side members being spaced apart from each other such that said maximum depth of said modular lintel block is defined by outer surfaces of said first and second rectangular side members.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein
said length of said modular lintel block is substantially equal to a predetermined
integer multiple of one-half lengths of said construction blocks.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein
said spacer members are configured to form a substantially straight longitudinal
passageway arranged between said first and second longitudinal side members.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein
a lintel reinforcing bar is coupled to said modular lintel block within said longitudinal
passageway.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein
said rectangular base member has a first opening arranged at a first end of said
modular lintel block and a second opening arranged at a second end of said modular lintel
block.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps
of:
providing first and second wall reinforcing bars;
inserting said first and second wall reinforcing bars in said first and second openings
of said modular lintel block.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein
said rectangular base member has a first opening arranged at a first end of said
modular lintel block and a second opening arranged at a second end of said modular lintel
block.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps
of:
providing first and second wall reinforcing bars;

inserting said first and second wall reinforcing bars in said first and second openings of said modular lintel block.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

pouring said cementing slurring into said modular lintel block.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said modular lintel block includes at least four of said spacer members.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said modular lintel block is constructed of metal.

22. (New) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein each of said spacers contacts each of said first and second rectangular side plates at two different spaced locations as measured perpendicular to said rectangular base member.

23. (New) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein said length of said modular lintel block is substantially equal to a predetermined integer multiple of one-half lengths of the construction blocks.

24. (New) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 10, wherein said first and second openings of said rectangular base member are enclosed openings that are completely surrounded by said rectangular base member.

25. (New) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 10, wherein said rectangular base member is free of openings, except said first and second openings formed therein.

26. (New) The embeddable lintel block according to claim 1, wherein

said maximum height of said lintel block is measured between a lower surface of said rectangular base member to an upper edge of either of said first and second rectangular side members in a direction perpendicular to said rectangular base member.

27. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein each of said spacers contacts each of said first and second rectangular side plates at two different spaced locations as measured perpendicular to said rectangular base member.

28. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein said first and second rectangular side members have first and second free ends that terminate within first and second planes containing said outer surfaces of said first and second rectangular side members.

29. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said first and second openings of said rectangular base member are enclosed openings that are completely surrounded by said rectangular base member.

30. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said rectangular base member is free of openings, except said first and second openings formed therein.

31. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein said maximum height of said lintel block is measured between a lower surface of said rectangular base member to an upper edge of either of said first and second rectangular side members in a direction perpendicular to said rectangular base member.